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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Aarons et al

Serial No.: 09/423,484

(Corresponding to PCT/GB98/01155)

Docket No. P9153

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21 AUG 2000

Legal Staff
International Division

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks U.S. Patent & Trademark Office Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant respectfully submits this Information Disclosure Statement in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56 and 1.97 within three (3) months of the filing date of the above-identified application.

Applicant submits herewith a copy of U.S. patent No. 4,464,606, which was cited in the International Preliminary Examination as being closest to representing the prior art of the above-referenced application. A copy of the International Preliminary Examination report is also included herewith for the Examiner's convenience.

If this matter could be expedited by consultation with Applicant's attorney, such would be welcome. Applicant's attorney can normally be reached at the telephone number listed below.

Signed at Bellingham, County of Whatcom, State of Washington this 7th day of February 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID J. AARONS ET AL.

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## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper falong with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date shown below.

7 Feb. 2000

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